

## ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

THE BIRDS OF NOVA SCOTIA. By Robie W. Tufts. Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, 1961: 6 $\frac{3}{4}$   $\times$  9 $\frac{1}{4}$  in., xviii + 481 pp., 40 col. pls., 30 line drawings, end-papers map. \$7.50.

This book is the culmination of the author's lifetime spent in the outdoors and in promoting conservation in his native province.

While in large part a very fully annotated checklist, the book is actually much more. The 18-page introduction presents Nova Scotia itself, its topography (highlands, shoreline, and islands), geological history (briefly treated), vegetation, and climate. Also included are a historical summary of the ornithological work done previously and notes on bird distribution, protection, and conservation in the province. The contributions of a host of collaborators are acknowledged.

The format is very similar to "Birds of Newfoundland" (1951) by H. S. Peters and T. D. Burleigh. When anyone familiar with it opens "The Birds of Nova Scotia," he will have a feeling that he has seen it all before, as indeed he has insofar as most of the colored plates are concerned. Prepared by Roger Tory Peterson especially for the "Birds of Newfoundland," the plates were loaned by the Government of Newfoundland for use in this work and have been reproduced here in toto even though in several cases, such as the Robin, the Newfoundland subspecies illustrated are noticeably different from the common subspecies found in Nova Scotia. Eight color plates prepared by John A. Crosby of the National Museum of Canada illustrate additional birds found in Nova Scotia. Through no fault of the artist these plates suffer by comparison with Peterson's. The color reproduction is not only poor but the artist had to crowd on them illustrations of species which needed 12 to 14 plates. The species are consequently presented on a much smaller scale than in the Peterson illustrations. In addition to the color plates there are 30 fine drawings by John Henry Dick.

The information under each species is organized under (1) Status of Occurrence, (2) Description, (3) Range of Species, and (4) Remarks. The inclusion of data on description and range, which are available in all standard field guides and occupy so much space here, might be considered superfluous in this type of work. Of greatest importance is the up-to-date information on the occurrence of the various species of birds found in Nova Scotia. This has never before been available in summary. The author's own observations over many years comprise a large part of the data and are very valuable.

The author is to be congratulated on this addition to the regional books on North American birds, and the Nova Scotia Museum and the Government of Nova Scotia on making its publication possible.—W. AUSTIN SQUIRES.

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TWO IN THE FAR NORTH. By Margaret E. Murie. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1962: 6 $\frac{1}{4}$   $\times$  8 $\frac{1}{4}$  in., xii + 438 pp., line drawings by Olaus J. Murie, map. \$5.95.

Probably no two people have been more concerned over the destruction of our wilderness areas than Olaus and Margaret Murie. This is their story—not of their struggles against the ax and the bulldozer, but of the pleasures and satisfactions derived from their experiences in the wilderness.

There are four parts: Part I, Fairbanks, 1911–1919, deals with Mrs. Murie's girlhood in Fairbanks, Alaska, which she describes as "a flat platter of hodgepodge buildings